

## **MINUTES**

Board of Water Commissioners Public Works Conference Room 630 Garden Street April 14, 2008 3:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Kate Rees, James Smith, Landon Neustadt, Russell Ruiz

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Paul Casey, Acting Public Works Director; Bill McTomney, Public Works

Administrative Officer; Rebecca Bjork, Acting Water Resources Manager; John Schoof, Acting Wastewater System Manager; Cathy Taylor, Water System Manager; Bill Ferguson, Water Resources Supervisor; Anne Van Belkom,

Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC: Steve Little; Jerry Shalhoob; Bob Mangus; Martha Sadler, Santa Barbara

Independent

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

2. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None. Ms. Bjork noted that Council Member Iya Falcone called to express her regret at being unable to attend the meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

3. **COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:** None.

- 4. **MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 10, 2008**: MOTION (Smith/ Ruiz 4-0-0): to approve the minutes as presented, with the replacement of the word "desalinization" with its more common usage "desalination".
- 5. **SEWER REHABILITATION CONTRACT:** Mr. Schoof reported that Council on April 1, 2008, approved the contract with Insituform Technologies, Inc. for the Small Diameter Sewer Rehabilitation Project that will rehabilitate approximately 32,600 linear feet of six and eight-inch diameter sewer mains throughout the City.
- 6. WATER AND WASTEWATER FISCAL YEAR 2009 BUDGETS: Mr. McTomney reviewed and discussed the recommended revisions to the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the FY08 & FY09 Financial Plan for the Water and Wastewater Funds. The recommended FY09 budget will be presented to Council on April 15, 2008, for final adoption during the last week in June 2008. MOTION (Ruiz/Neustadt 4-0-0): To recommend approval of the FY09 Water and Wastewater budgets as presented.
- 7. CACHUMA CONSERVATION RELEASE BOARD (CCRB) BUDGET: Before beginning this Agenda item, Ms. Rees was requested to give a brief description of the history and the activities of the CCRB. Ms. Rees excused herself during the presentation of this item. Mr. Ferguson presented the Cachuma Conservation Release Board budget for Fiscal Year 2009, and described the Habitat Restoration Projects and other special projects included in this budget. MOTION (Neustadt/Ruiz 3-0-0): To recommend approval of the CCRB budget substantially as presented. Ms. Rees rejoined the meeting after the vote.
- 8. **PROPOSED WATER AND WASTEWATER RATES:** Staff reviewed the proposed across-the-board rate increases of 3.5 % for water service and 6% for wastewater service. The public is being notified of the proposed water increases via an insert in their April water bills. The insert also includes an announcement of the required public hearing on the rate increases, scheduled for June 17, 2008. Water Commissioners discussed at length the request from Mr. Steve Little to eliminate the block allotment system for agricultural customers and make a reduction in the current Block 1 agricultural water rate of \$1.51 per HCF. MOTION (Rees/Ruiz 3-1-0, with Smith opposing): To recommend, a) Increase the Block 1 agricultural allotment from 2 to 2.5 acre-feet per acre per year; b) Defer, for FY09 only, the 3.5% increase in the agricultural Block 1 rate, thereby leaving the rate at \$1.51 per HCF for FY09, and c) Consider the need for additional changes in agricultural rates at a later date.

- 9. HYDROELECTRIC PLANT RECOMMISSIONING STUDY: Ms. Bjork informed Water Commissioners that Brown and Caldwell was selected for a contract to conduct a feasibility evaluation for the recommissioning the hydroelectric plant at Lauro Reservoir. This study would evaluate the plant's current status, determine the work needed to reactivate, advice staff on the complex regulatory issues, and determine the best option for use of the energy that is generated. This item will go before Council on April 29, 2008. MOTION (Neustadt/Smith 4-0-0): To concur with the staff recommendation in the Draft Council Agenda Report.
- 10. ZACA FIRE WATER QUALITY UPDATE: Ms. Taylor gave an update on the results of the Zaca Fire, which has created an increase in the level of organic carbon and nutrients in the waters of Lake Cachuma and Gibraltar Reservoir. Staff is continuing to treat the water by adding powdered activated carbon to reduce precursors to the formation of Trihalomethanes (THM), and is conducting extensive testing to determine the optimum treatment for minimizing THM formation. Groundwater wells have been turned on in order to supplement surface water supplies. Groundwater has low concentrations of organic material and consequently low TMH concentrations. Staff also is working with Goleta Water District and COMB in monitoring Gibraltar Reservoir and Lake Cachuma for algae growth that may affect the taste and odor of the water.
- 11. LANDSCAPE DESIGN STANDARDS FOR WATER CONSERVATION PROPOSED REVISION: Mr. Ferguson discussed the handout for the revised Landscape Design Standards for Water Conservation. Most of the revisions reflect the new technology and updated information available on water conservation. The City has already adopted the similar requirements for City properties. Upon adoption, these standards will be applicable to projects requiring discretionary review. Water Commissioners indicated their support of the standards by consensus.
- 12. WATER RESOURCES MANAGER'S REPORT: Ms. Bjork distributed and reviewed the Monthly Water Resources Manager's report on water production, rainfall, and wastewater influent. Water demand was up in March, reflecting the warm weather and lack of rainfall during the month. Gibraltar Reservoir is full and continues to spill. Ms. Bjork noted that wastewater influent data relative to periods of high rainfall reflect the City's efforts to minimize collection system inflow and infiltration when compared to past years. The County of Santa Barbara is cooperating with the request to initiate boat inspection procedures at Lake Cachuma in order to head off any possible Quagga mussel infestation.
- 13. **DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**: It was confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 12, 2008, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50p.m.

AVB Approved: May 12, 2008